

Received
1.9.13
H2D56

United States Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.

to cat.
current.

NOTE TO EDITOR: We have had many requests from home demonstration agents who are not broadcasting regularly to be listed to receive the Homemakers' Chats, the Department's radio manuscript series on subjects of interest to homemakers. The Chats, however, are for broadcasting use only.

To help the home demonstration agents obtain the information featured in the Chats, we are suggesting a weekly summary of the information they contain which we shall send to you for remimeographing if your agents care to have it.

These summaries will be sent to you for several weeks so that you may give the plan a trial. Then we'll send you a query as to whether or not you wish them continued.

381-42

question concerns cuts of lamb to buy for stew. The answer is, inexpensive cuts such as shoulder, breast, flank, neck, and "trimmings." Directions for cooking may be found in the leaflet mentioned above.

Another question concerns the location best suited to growing fruit. Fruit trees should be planted on moderately elevated land or on a slope where frost won't settle, with soil reasonably fertile and well-drained. Don't plant near wood lots or shade trees.

To a gardener who wants to know the proper time to weed the garden: As soon as the soil is dry enough after a rain, and only when the garden needs weeding.

The last question is about wood to burn next winter. Wood experts say it should be cured for 9 months to a year for best and most economical results. Green wood has much less heating value than seasoned wood.

Wednesday. - Knocking on Wood. Now that wood is substituting for strategic metals needed to win the war, it is a good time to get rid of common but false ideas concerning it. The idea that wood does not resist heat as well as steel is inaccurate. At a very high temperature steel heats through rapidly and may lose its strength and drop its load sooner than wood. Wood may char on the outside and still remain untouched inside. Another belief is that age causes decay in wood. This has been proved false. Wood lasts many years when kept dry or wet, thoroughly saturated. Plant or fungus that thrives in dampness and warm climate is the real cause of decay.

381-42

United States Department of Agriculture
U.S. EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.

DIGEST OF HOMEMAKERS CHATS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 30, 1942

Monday. - How To Make Leather Last. Since the War Production Board, on March 12, ordered 80 percent of top-grade leather for soles set aside for military shoes, it is especially important for all civilians to know how to care for leather articles. Chemists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture advise lubrication and polishing regularly to preserve leather. Heavy work shoes need plenty of lubricating, but street shoes can be kept in condition by polishing with shoe polish. Neat's-foot oil, castor oil, cod oil, tallow, wool grease, or mixtures of these are good. Leather can be cleaned by washing with mild, pure soap or saddle soap and water. Wipe soap off with damp cloth, dry thoroughly, and rub in oil or polish.

Tuesday. - Question Box. An economical housewife asks if she can roast low-priced breast of lamb or lamb shoulder cuts in the oven like leg of lamb. Meat cookery specialists say "Yes." The lamb shoulder should be boned and made either into a roll or a cushion. Complete directions for cooking lamb may be found in a free leaflet available from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Write for "Lamb as You Like It," Leaflet No. 28. And another question concerns cuts of lamb to buy for stew. The answer is, inexpensive cuts such as shoulder, breast, flank, neck, and "trimmings." Directions for cooking may be found in the leaflet mentioned above.

Another question concerns the location best suited to growing fruit. Fruit trees should be planted on moderately elevated land or on a slope where frost won't settle, with soil reasonably fertile and well-drained. Don't plant near wood lots or shade trees.

To a gardener who wants to know the proper time to weed the garden: As soon as the soil is dry enough after a rain, and only when the garden needs weeding.

The last question is about wood to burn next winter. Wood experts say it should be cured for 9 months to a year for best and most economical results. Green wood has much less heating value than seasoned wood.

Wednesday. - Knocking on Wood. Now that wood is substituting for strategic metals needed to win the war, it is a good time to get rid of common but false ideas concerning it. The idea that wood does not resist heat as well as steel is inaccurate. At a very high temperature steel heats through rapidly and may lose its strength and drop its load sooner than wood. Wood may char on the outside and still remain untouched inside. Another belief is that age causes decay in wood. This has been proved false. Wood lasts many years when kept dry or wet, thoroughly saturated. Plant or fungus that thrives in dampness and warm climate is the real cause of decay.

Wednesday - Continued.

Each spring people begin asking how to keep a cottonwood tree from throwing off "cotton." If you know your cottonwoods you can plant the male or staminate tree which does not give off cotton. It is the female of the species that spreads the fluff around. To identify, note the buds or young leaves. On the male tree they are large and purplish in color, whereas those of the female are small and light green.

Thursday. - Question Box. Do slip covers protect upholstered furniture from moths? The answer is, No. On the contrary, they may shelter moth larvae while they feed on the fabric. Remove covers frequently and go over the upholstery with brush or vacuum cleaner. Another question of insects, Will spirea bushes growing around the house attract carpet beetles. Again the answer is, No.

Another writer wants to know where to get definite information on cotton insulation. For addresses of firms that make this insulation, and directions for installing it, write to the Agricultural Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A housewife asks: "Is it all right to buy paint? I understand there is a scarcity of oils for paint." Department economists say it is all right to buy whatever the retailer has to sell.

A mother asks if eggs colored for Easter can be used later. If they are properly cooked in the first place and put away in the refrigerator as soon as they have been exhibited and admired in the morning, they can be used for a meal later in the day.